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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES    OCI #0565/74  
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POLAND

On the Run

Foreign Minister Olszowski may have to don track shoes to meet his schedule in coming days. From April 8-11 he visits London. Thereafter, he is due in New York for the special session of the UN General Assembly that opens on April 9. Finally, he may have to hurry back home to participate in a meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee, which will likely occur in Warsaw from April 17-20.

In a sense, Olszowski will be exercising the major options of Polish foreign policy as he in turn smiles on the West, woos the Third World, and renews bloc ties. It will be interesting to observe how well Olszowski performs this juggling act.

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EAST GERMANY

Foreign Minister Winzer Reported Ill

The East German press service has announced that Foreign Minister Winzer has been ill for some time. Party boss Honecker visited Winzer on April 4 and wished him an early recovery. Winzer has not appeared in public for months, and a Vienna newspaper recently reported that he would soon be replaced. Possible successors include State Secretary Oskar Fischer, State Secretary and UN representative Peter Florin, or Horst Bittner, until recently ambassador to Moscow.

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ROMANIA

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Macovescu Low Yield in Prague

The communique summarizing Romanian Foreign Minister Macovescu's visit to Prague from 31 March to 4 April suggests

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that the two sides found little in common. When the orthodox Czechoslovaks and the maverick Romanians get together, there is always a potential for sparks to fly. Indeed, the communique's failure to mention any future "high level" visits probably indicates that difficulties did develop. Prior to the talks a Czechoslovak diplomat hinted at the possibility of an "official" Ceausescu visit to Czechoslovakia--Ceausescu's visit to Prague in March 1973 and Husak's stay in Bucharest in March 1971 were "unofficial."

Moscow's evident interest in holding another world communist conference is one obvious area for discord. Macovescu met with Vasil Bilak, the hardline secretary who issued Prague's call for a world conference during the World Marxist Review conference in January. The Romanians recently have publicly opposed such a meeting and listed conditions for their attendance.

Other Czechoslovak leaders who met with Macovescu include party leader Husak and Premier Strougal. However, Macovescu did not meet with President Svoboda, who is seriously ill in the hospital.

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